

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 014775
ORIGIN NEA-10

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-----059305 191554Z /46

O 191530Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:CASC (ESMAIL, SAMY)

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF SAMY ESMAIL: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST

1. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT INDIVIDUALS IN MICHIGAN CONCERNED OVER ISRAELI HANDLING OF SAMY ESMAIL CASE HAVE AROUSED CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST AND THAT DEPARTMENT MAY COME UNDER PRESSURE TO TAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS IN MATTER. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL CALLS FROM SENATOR JAVITS' OFFICE, CONGRESSMAN GILMAN'S OFFICE, AND CONGRESSMAN BOB CARR IN PERSON.

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS HAVE AGREED TO MEET JANUARY 20 WITH SAMY'S BROTHER, BASSIM ESMAIL, ACCOMPANIED BY PROFESSORS JABBARA AND MASTERSON OF MICHIGAN. EMBASSY SHOULD CABLE UPDATE ON CASE TO BE RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT BY START OF BUSINESS JANUARY 20.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS AGREED TO CONGRESSMAN CARR'S REQUEST
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THAT EMBASSY BE ASKED TO DETERMINE (A) WHETHER IN A CASE OF THIS KIND AN AMCIT ATTORNEY WOULD BE PERMITTED TO BE

PRESENT DURING PROCEEDINGS AND (B) IF IT IS TRUE, AS CARR WAS TOLD BY FELICIA LANGER BY TELEPHONE, THAT FORCED CONFESSION IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE UNDER ISRAELI LAW FOR CONVICTION. LANGER TOLD CARR THAT CONFESSION IS ONLY EVI-

DENCE ISRAELIS HAVE AGAINST ESMail. FYI:CARR IS SO CONCERNED ABOUT THIS CASE AND GENERALLY ABOUT ISRAELI PRACTICE OF HOLDING CLOSED TRIALS IN SECURITY CASES THAT HE IS TOYING WITH IDEA OF FLYING TO ISRAEL AND DEMANDING THAT HE BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND PROCEEDINGS. CHRISTOPHER

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